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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /071 W
---------- 006688
R 271005Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5228
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY HIHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4208

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN
SUBJECT: INDO-PAK RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 4114

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH POL COUNSELOR APRIL 27, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA) HAYAT MEHDI CONTINUED TO TAKE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC LINE ON INDO-PAK RELATIONS. MEHDI CONFIRMED THAT MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT BY PAK FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI TO INDIAN OPPOSITE NUMBER JAGAT MEHTA INVITING INDIANS TO ISLAMABAD DURING PERIOD APRIL 27 - MAY 7. (SHAHI LEAVES FOR ISTANBUL ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS.) MEHDI SAID NO REPLY HAD BEEN RECEIVED YET FROM NEW DELHI.
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2. SOME PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE GOP'S APPROACH TO
INDO-PAK RELATIONS CONTINUES TO APPEAR. THE INDEPENDENT
URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT HAS REITERATED ITS FAMILIAR
ANTI-INDIAN LINE IN AN EDITORIAL WHICH INTER ALIA
ACCUSED THE US AND IRAN OF PRESSURING THE PAKS TO MAKE
CONCESSIONS TO NEW DELHI. ITS POLITICAL COLUMNIST
Z.A. SULERI HAS SINGLED OUT AZIZ AHMED'S IZMIR STATEMENT
ON KASHMIR (REFTEL) FOR SPECIAL CRITICISM. AHMED
STATEMENT WAS ALSO SUBJECT OF PARLIAMENTARY ADJOURNMENT
MOTION BY AN OPPOSITION NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN APRIL 26.
(SPEAKER RSNUSED TO ADMIT MOTION.) IN OUR VIEW, ALL
OF THIS WAS PREDICTABLE AND GOP SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE
IN CONTROLLING IT.

3. ONLY CAUTIONARY PUBLIC NOTE FROM GOP ON INDO-PAKISTAN RE-
LATIONS OVER PAST FEW DAYS CAME FROM BHUTTO HIMSELF. SPEAKING
TO NEWSMEN IN IZMIR APRIL 24, PM REFERRED TO RECENT
BOARDER CLASHES BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH AND WAS
QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "IF THE SITUATION AGGRAVATES ....
THIS WILL INTRODUCE A NEW ELEMENT IN THE SITUATIONOR
HE NOTED THAT HE HOPED AND PRAYED THAT CLASHES WOULD
NOT CONTINUE, POINTING OUT THAT "IT WILL NOT SOUND VERY
CONGRUOUS THAT WHILE ON THE ONE HAND WE ARE TALKING TO
INDIA TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS AND EXCHANGE DIPLOMATS,
ON THE OTHER HAND FIRING IS TAKING PLACE ...." BHUTTO
ALSO USED IZMIR PRESS SESSION TO REITERATE THAT IT WAS
PAKISTAN (AND NOT INDIA) WHICH HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE
IN THE MOST RECENT EFFORT TO NORMALIZE INDO-PAK RELATIONS.
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